

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00682 270748Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 MCT-01 CAB-02
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R 270614Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2270
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0682

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, EAIR
SUBJECT: ANTI-HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP

REF: STATE 011044

1. AS NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR IN HOSPITAL IN MELBOURNE
AND AS HIS EMBASSY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF FRG, JAPAN AND US MET ON JANUARY 26
TO DISCUSS TACTICS FOR APPROACH TO GOA ON ANTI-HIJACKING
CONTACT GROUP.

2. IT WAS DECIDED THAT JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WOULD INFORMALLY
MENTION MATTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY PEACOCK AND DEPARTMENTAL
SECRETARY NICK PARKENSON AT A DFA RECEPTION ON JANUARY 26.
THIS WAS DONE WITH BOTH STATING THAT WHILE THEY HAD NO
PERSONAL HESITATION IN APPROVING AUSTRALIA'S JOINING AND
WOULD CONSIDER IT MOST FAVORABLY, THEY WOULD PREFER NOT
TO MAKE A FINAL COMMITMENT UNTIL THEY HAD HEARD VIEWS OF
WORKING-LEVEL IN DFA.

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3. AT MEETING IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT US REPRESENTA-
TIVE WOULD PRESENT TALKING POINTS AND CERTAIN ADDITIONAL
MATERIAL IN REFTEL TO DFA WORKING LEVEL ON THE FOLLOWING
DAY IF POSSIBLE. AS A RESULT, EMBOFF PRESENTED MATERIAL
TO RICHARD SMITH, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LEGAL AND
TREATIES DIVISION AND TO D. DE STOOP, DIRECTOR GENERAL
LEGAL SECTION, ON JANUARY 27.

4. SMITH SAID THAT OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND TALKING POINTS MADE CLEAR WHAT THE FOUR COUNTRIES HAD IN MIND. HE SAID THAT THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY MINISTER PEACOCK AND THE STATEMENT IN THE UN BY THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR STATED GENERAL AUSTRALIAN POSITION VERY CLEARLY. NEVERTHELESS HE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO UNDERTAKE INTRA AND INTER DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE HE COULD GIVE US A FORMAL REPLY; I.E. WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL LEVEL. SMITH SAID THAT WE COULD BE SURE THAT THESE TALKS WOULD BE APPROACHED IN A VERY POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND AND THAT HE THOUGHT HE WOULD BE IN POSITION GIVE US FORMAL REPLY BEFORE FEBRUARY 15. SMITH STRESSED THAT HE CERTAINLY AGREED ON THE LAST POINT IN OUR TALKING PAPERS ABOUT NOT GIVING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FORMATION OF A CONTACT GROUP ANY PUBLICITY AT THIS TIME.
ALSTON

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